

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EUR-12 SY-05 USSS-00

AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

----- 035022

O R 230959Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY DAR IS SALAAM IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2987

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPED AMERICANS

1. CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWED EMILY POLIS AND JIM BAUGH WHO WERE AT CAMP BUT DID NOT ACTUALLY WITNESS ATTACK ON MAIN CAMP ITSELF. THEY PROVIDED FOLLOWING:

A. ATTACKERS ACCORDING TO PARK RANGERS WERE DRESSED IN CAMO-FLAGUED UNIFORMS (BROWN AND GREEN). ONE ATTACKER POINTED TO EMBLEM ON HAT STATING HE FROM ZAIRE. FOLLOWING ATTACK BAUGH CEW BOOT PRINTS ON BEACH. HE STATED HE OBSERVED NO BCZ FOOT PRINTS. BAUGH ALSO SAID ATTACKERS INITIALLY USED 30 OR 40 FOOT WOODEN BOAT SIMILAR TO LAKE TAXIS PROBABLY POWERED BY ONE OUBOAR MOTOR. UPON LEAVING ATTACKERS TOOK RESEARCH CENTER BOAT - 15 FOOT FIBERGLASS FLATBOTTOM LIGHT COLORED WITH 4 PERSON CAPACITY. POLIS AND BAUGH COULD PROVIDE NO DESCRIPTION RE WEAPONS OR ANY RANKS ON UNIFORMS.

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B. ACTUAL ATTACK: (1) ATTACKERS FIRST LANDED AT NYASANGA

VALLEY (GOMBE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CAMPS). BAUGH WAS AT NYASANGA WHICH IS SOUTH OF MAIN CAMP WHEN ATTACKERS ARRIVED APPROXIMATELY 11:30 P.M. WHERE THEY WENT DIRECTLY TO STAFF CAMP ASKING WHERE "WAZUNGUS" (EUROPEANS) WERE. BAUGH ALSO STATED LOCAL STAFF INFORMED HIM AFTER INITIAL ATTACK ATTACKERS ASKED WHERE "BWANA MKUBWA" (IMPORTANT PERSON) WAS. LOCAL STAFF REFUSED TO ANSWER AND RAIDERS LEFT IN BOAT HEADING NORTH TO MAIN CAMP. THEY DID NOT TAKE ANYTHING FROM NYASANGA. AFTER RAIDERS LEFT BAUGH BEGAN WALKING TO GOMBE. HE STATED AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 HE IN VICINITY OF KAHAMA VALLEY AND HEARD SEVEN DISTINCT GUNSHOTS FROM LAKE BUT COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING.

(2) GOMBE ATTACK:

HBLIS LEARNED AFTER RAID ATTACKERS APPARENTLY DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL GROUPS; ONE GROUP GOT CAMP'S BOAT AND PETROL, SECOND GROUP WENT TO MESS AREA AND TOOK FOOD, CLOTHES BUT NO MONEY WHICH WAS IN QUITE VISIBLE SAFE, THIRD GROUP MADE TOWARD STUDENTS' HOUSING (SMALL COTTAGES IN DISPERSED FASHION). ATTACKERS SAW EMILIE VAN ZIN BERGMAN'S LIGHT ON AND TOOK LOCAL STAFF ALONG TO GET BERGMAN OUT OF HER HOUSE. BERGMAN'S SCREAMS WOKE UP MICHELE TREADEAU, CARRIE HUNTER'S ROOMMATE WHO SOUGHT ASSISTANCE PARK WARDEN (TANCIT). ATTACKERS THEN WENT TO STEVE SMITH'S HOUSE. HIS CALLS BROUGHT BARBARA SMUTS AND CARRIE HUNTER TO HIS COTTAGE WHERE THEY WERE ALSO CAPTURED. ATTACKERS WHO HAD ALSO CAPTURED TANZANIAN PARK WARDEN RELEASED HER SAYING THEY ONLY WANTED EUROPEANS. ATTACKERS RANSACKED SMITH'S HOUSE TAKING BEDCLOTHES BUT LEAVING MONEY AND PASSPORT UNTOUCHED. ATTACKERS LEFT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 A.M.

2. POLIS AND BAUGH UNCERTAIN HOW SUBJECTS WERE DRESSED WHEN THEY KIDNAPPED. THEY PRESUME SUBJECTS WEARING LEVIS AND TEE SHIRTS SINCE TRAJT NORMAL DRESS. POST EXPECTS SUBJECTS' PASS-PORTS AND OTHER PHOTOS TO ARRIVE NAIROBI TODAY. POLIS AND BAUGH PROVIDED FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS: HUNTER HAS SCAR NEAR CCE OF HER EYELIDS, SMITH HAD DARK BEARD ABOUT ONE MONTH OLD, SMUTS HAD POOR EYESIGHT. WILL POUCH CONCERNED POSTS PHOTOS WHEN OBTAINED.

3. GROUP NOW PLANS REMAIN NAIROBI AND EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST HOUSING FOR THIS GROUP PLUS ARRIVALS EXPECTED LATER TODAY.

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4. JOHN WAINWRIGHT, BRIT. CIT., HAS CONTACTED BRITISH H.C., NAIROBI RE STATUS BRITISH CITS. AT GOMBE.

5. WILL ATTEMPT INTERVIEW SECOND GROUP ARRIVALS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

LINDSTROM

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED

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